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CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED ABSTRACT

A rejection rate of a selective sequential processing apparatus such as a mail sortation apparatus is reduced by combining results of at least two feature discrimination arrangements such as optical character recognition and a bar code reader based on comparisons of results of the feature discrimination results against each other and against expected values to validate at least one result and rejecting articles for manual processing only when no feature discrimination result can be validated. The results of one feature discrimination technique can be used to augment results of another feature discrimination technique to improve selective processing accuracy and processing speed and throughput are increased by allowing use of faster or accelerated feature discrimination processes while maintaining a greater number of articles within the automated process.